

Ser. No. 09/973,349

PATENT
2001P07594US02

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 7, 11 and 14-19 have been amended to more clearly define the invention.

The claims have been amended to more clearly recite that the claimed systems involve "*accumulating*" in a database, "object identifier code mapping information from identifier codes derived from *message* data". Support for this and the other amendments is found in the existing claims and in the Application description on page 8 lines 18-22, page 13 lines 7-10 and other places.

I. Objection to Specification

The disclosure is objected to because it contains embedded hyperlinks.

Sections on pages 2 and 14 of the Application containing hyperlinks are amended to eliminate the hyperlinks. Consequently this objection is deemed to be satisfied and its withdrawal is respectfully requested.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application 20020059204 – Harris. These claims, as amended, are deemed to be patentable for the reasons given below.

Amended claim 1 recites a method for "determining identifier codes for an object associated with a plurality of identifier codes by a corresponding plurality of entities" comprising "receiving a first message including at least a first identifier code identifying an object, said first identifier code being associated with a first entity; extracting said first identifier code from said received first message; accumulating, in a first database, object identifier code mapping information from identifier codes derived from message data; generating a plurality of messages incorporating said extracted first identifier code, said plurality of messages being for initiating a search of a plurality of different identifier code databases including said first database, said databases linking said first identifier code associated with said first entity to corresponding different identifier codes identifying said object, said different identifier codes being associated with entities different to said first entity; and receiving said different identifier codes corresponding to said first identifier code in

Ser. No. 09/973,349

PATENT
2001P07594US02

response to communicating said plurality of messages". These features are not shown (or suggested) in Harris.

The method of amended claim 1 dynamically translates a code or identifier used by a first entity (such as a first company) to identify an object such as a product, service or resource, to multiple corresponding codes or identifiers used by another entity (such as other companies) using multiple code mapping databases (Application page 2 lines 15-17). Specifically, the method involves "generating a plurality of messages incorporating" an "extracted first identifier code, said plurality of messages being for initiating a search of a plurality of different identifier code databases" including a "first database" derived by "accumulating...object identifier code mapping information from identifier codes derived from message data".

The system addresses the problems involved in effecting commercial transactions that arise through attempted integration of disparate computer systems where a retailer, one or more distributors and a manufacturer employ different identifier codes for the same part, for example (Application page 1 lines 15-30). The claimed system "alleviates the need to manually synchronize different identifier code mapping databases and files" (Application page 6 lines 17-19). Further, multiple identifier code mapping databases "are advantageously updated using received identifier codes". The system advantageously **accumulates**, in a first database, object identifier code mapping information from identifier codes **derived from message data**". The system also generates a "plurality of messages incorporating said extracted first identifier code, said plurality of messages being for initiating a search of a plurality of different identifier code databases including said **first database**". These features are not shown or suggested in Harris. The claimed system as shown in Figure 12 of the Application, for example, advantageously translates identifiers **WITHIN** messages as they pass through an interface processor (900), **WITHOUT** any action or knowledge thereof by either the sending system (700) or receiving system (710). This feature provides transparent and automated mapping of identifiers, **WITHOUT** requiring changes to either a sending or receiving application.

In contrast, the system of Harris as shown in Figure 1 actively surveys a data source, depicted as a database engine (20), in order to build a mapping dictionary. This requires such databases to support queries from surveyor (102), which requires work on the database engine (20), access to the database engine, and detailed knowledge of the layout of the database (Harris paragraph 0029). The active surveying and communications involved in the Harris system are burdensome and

Ser. No. 09/973,349

PATENT
2001P07594US02

employ processing, communication and bandwidth resources. The necessary connections between units 102 and 20 in Harris present a security risk and burden database engine 20. In contrast, the claimed system does not require such an active surveying connection to databases in order to build a mapping dictionary, because it is able to *passively* survey *messages* in communication on a network to build a mapping dictionary. Thus, the claimed system, by "accumulating, in a first database, object identifier code mapping information from identifier codes derived from message data", advantageously does not require an active connection between units like 102-20 in Harris or a tight linkage to a database record layout (as in Harris) and does not incur an associated security risk. Further, the surveying connection required by Harris results in the need to build, maintain, and effect customized queries and results (110, 112 Figure 1). The claimed system does not need to interact with either the sender (700) or receiver (710) databases as data sources and so is not burdened by the need to build and communicate such queries. Although, the claimed system links an external mapping database, it is able to function using the "first database" created by "accumulating...object identifier code mapping information from identifier codes derived from message data". This feature is not shown or suggested in Harris.

In addition it would not be obvious to modify the system of Harris to dynamically accumulate object identifier code mapping information from message data since Harris provides no problem recognition, reason or other motivation for incorporating such a feature. Rather, the Harris more cumbersome system involving actively surveying data sources eliminates the need to the dynamic accumulation system though at a substantial practical cost. Consequently withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 under 35 USC 102(e) is respectfully requested.

Dependent claim 2 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 1.

Dependent claim 3 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claims 1 and 2. Claim 3 is also considered to be patentable because Harris does not show (or suggest) the feature combination of claim 3 involving "said plurality of messages use Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) for updating said plurality of databases". Contrary to the Rejection statement on page 7 Harris in paragraph 0062 does not mention SOAP protocol or discuss its use in updating a mapping database.

Ser. No. 09/973,349

PATENT
2001P07594US02

Amended dependent claim 4 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 1. Claim 4 is also considered to be patentable because Harris does not show (or suggest) the feature combination of claim 1 involving "communicating said plurality of messages to applications useable for initiating a search of said plurality of different remote identifier code databases".

Dependent claim 5 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 1. Claim 5 is also considered to be patentable because Harris does not show (or suggest) the feature combination of claim 1 in which "a message of said plurality of messages initiates a prioritized search of a database and an object comprises at least one of, (i) an article of manufacture, (ii) a service and (iii) a non-manufactured item and an entity comprises at least one of, (a) an object retailer, (b) an object wholesaler, (c) an object distributor, (d) an object manufacturer, (e) an object servicing enterprise and (f) an object seller".

Dependent claim 6 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claims 1 and 5. Claim 6 is also considered to be patentable because Harris does not show (or suggest) the feature combination of claim 6 in which "said prioritized search of said database searches first for a purchaser product identifier code identifying said object and subsequently for a manufacturer product identifier code identifying said object".

Amended dependent claim 7 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 1. Claim 7 is also considered to be patentable because Harris does not show (or suggest) the feature combination of claim 7 involving "deriving said first identifier code and a corresponding third identifier code identifying said object from said received first message, and said generating activity generates a plurality of messages incorporating said derived first and third identifier codes".

Dependent claim 8 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claims 1 and 7. Claim 8 is also considered to be patentable because Harris does not show (or suggest) the feature combination of claim 8 in which "said first identifier code comprises a purchaser product identifier code and said third identifier code comprises a manufacturer product identifier code and a message of said plurality of messages initiates a prioritized search of a database involving searching first for said purchaser product identifier code and subsequently for a manufacturer product identifier code".

Ser. No. 09/973,349

PATENT
2001P07594US02

Dependent claim 9 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 1. Claim 9 is also considered to be patentable because Harris does not show (or suggest) the feature combination of claim 9 employing a "message" that "incorporates rules determining conduct of said search of said identifier code database".

Amended dependent claim 10 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claims 1 and 9. Claim 10 is also considered to be patentable because Harris does not show (or suggest) the feature combination of claim 10 in which "said rules are predetermined in an application used for accessing said database".

Amended dependent claim 11 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 1. Claim 11 is also considered to be patentable because Harris does not show (or suggest) the feature combination of claim 11 involving "communicating said plurality of messages to applications for accessing databases using at least two of, (a) Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP), (b) Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) and (c) XML (Extensible Markup language)". Contrary to the Rejection statement on page 7 Harris in paragraph 0062 does not mention use of SOAP or XML in message communication.

Amended dependent claim 12 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 1. Claim 12 is also considered to be patentable because Harris does not show (or suggest) the feature combination in which an "identifier code mapping application and one of said plurality of different remote identifier code databases are co-located on the same processor, said processor comprising one of (a) a server, (b) a PC (c) a wireless device, (d) a mainframe computer and (e) another networked processing device".

Amended dependent claim 13 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 1 and because of the additional feature combination it includes.

Amended dependent claim 14 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 1. Claim 14 is also considered to be patentable because Harris does not show (or suggest) the method of claim 14 in which a "first message is received from an application initiating a transaction and including the activity of, forwarding a composite message to a destination application in support of said

Ser. No. 09/973,349

PATENT
2001P07594US02

transaction, said composite message being created including information derived from said first message and including one of said different identifier codes”.

Amended independent claim 15 is considered to be patentable for reasons given in connection with claim 1 and claim 9.

Amended independent claim 16 is considered to be patentable for reasons given in connection with claim 1. Claim 16 is also considered to be patentable because Harris does not show (or suggest) “receiving a first message including at least a first identifier code identifying an object, said first identifier code being associated with a first entity; deriving said first identifier code from said received first message; accumulating, in a first database, object identifier code mapping information from identifier codes derived from message data; generating a plurality of messages incorporating said derived first identifier code, said plurality of messages being for initiating searches of said first database and a remote identifier code database, said databases mapping said first identifier code associated with said first entity to corresponding different identifier codes identifying said object, said different identifier codes being associated with entities different to said first entity; receiving said different identifier codes corresponding to said first identifier code in response to communicating said plurality of messages; and updating said remote identifier code databases to incorporate corresponding received different identifier codes identifying said object”.

As previously explained in connection with claim 1, the Harris system actively surveys a data source, depicted as a database engine (20), in order to build a mapping dictionary. This requires such databases to support queries from surveyor (102), which requires work on the database engine (20), access to the database engine, and detailed knowledge of the layout of the database (Harris paragraph 0029). In contrast, the claimed system does not require such an active surveying connection to databases in order to build a mapping dictionary, because it builds a mapping dictionary by “accumulating, in a first database, object identifier code mapping information from identifier codes derived from message data”. Neither these advantages nor the features of the claim 16 arrangement that provide these advantages are suggested in Harris.

Amended independent claim 17 is considered to be patentable for reasons given in connection with claim 1.

Ser. No. 09/973,349

PATENT
2001P07594US02

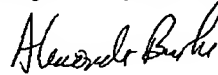
Amended dependent claim 18 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 17. Claim 18 is also considered to be patentable because Harris does not show (or suggest) the feature combination of claim 18 involving "generating a record of said search and provision of said different identifier codes for use in at least one of, (a) billing, and (b) creating a transaction record".

Amended independent claim 19 is considered to be patentable for reasons given in connection with claims 1, 2 and 16.

Amended dependent claim 20 is considered to be patentable based on its dependence on claim 19. Consequently withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 USC 102(e) is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the Application is in condition for allowance, and favorable reconsideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Alexander J. Burke
Reg. No. 40,425

Alexander J. Burke
Intellectual Property Department
Siemens Corporation,
170 Wood Avenue South
Iselin, N.J. 08830
Tel. 732 321 3023
Fax 732 321 3030